

Stepping Up the Fight Against Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a serious epidemic. The General Assembly took action this legislative session by passing a package of bills that will help protect victims, prevent future abuse and increase public awareness.



I was honored to serve on the bipartisan Speaker's Task Force on Domestic Violence that formulated much of the domestic violence legislation passed this session.

- ▶ **Judicial and Criminal Justice Systems**—Changes include: implementing a pilot program for electronic monitoring of the highest risk domestic violence offenders; improved enforcement of protective orders; and the creation of three additional domestic violence court dockets.
- ▶ **Housing and Human Services Changes**—The process for survivors of domestic violence who need to terminate their lease will be less burdensome.
- ▶ **Education Changes**—This bill added teen dating and domestic violence education to education staff training programs.

Honoring Veterans & Active-Duty Personnel

The General Assembly continued its efforts to support veterans and active-duty personnel. I'm proud that with my support, we were able to pass laws that:

- ▶ Extend the expiration date of driver's licenses for active-duty service members serving out of state.
- ▶ Provide credit or an exemption toward the requirements of a professional license or certificate for members of the armed forces who received substantive similar training during their military service.
- ▶ Honor Vietnam veterans by proclaiming March 30th of each year as "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day." The date commemorates the return home of the last members of the armed forces who served in Vietnam.



Aid For Our Towns

State funding for cities and towns impacts your property taxes. That's why I fought hard to protect funding for **East Lyme, Montville, New London, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Salem and Waterford**. This table shows the state grants and reimbursements for our district in Fiscal Year 2010–2011.

	Fiscal Year 10-11
Total Education Grants	\$50,828,276
Town Aid Road Fund Grant	\$1,013,985
Mashantucket Pequot & Mohegan Fund Grant	\$3,918,639
Local Capital Improvement Program (LoCIP)	\$818,716
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$8,254,136
Total State Funds to the 20th Senate District	\$64,833,752



Dear Neighbor,

Everywhere I go constituents tell me the same thing: they want state government to focus on growing jobs and crafting a budget. I got the message.

This session we worked with Governor Rell to pass a historic bipartisan jobs bill. The initiative helps businesses get access to the capital and credit that they need to thrive. We also made Connecticut an easier place to do business by cutting back on red tape and streamlining the regulatory process.

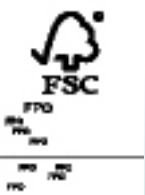
We tackled the budget deficit the same way. By working together, we were able to vote on a budget without raising taxes or cutting municipal aid. Instead, we made significant cuts to state spending, maximized federal aid and reduced the amount of borrowing necessary to close the budget gap.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you as Connecticut continues on the road to recovery.

Sincerely,
Andrea
Andrea Stillman
State Senator,
20th District



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State Senator
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I'm proud to represent the citizens of
East Lyme, Montville, New London, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Salem & Waterford

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SUMMER 2010

HELPFUL RESOURCES

EDUCATION

Helping Connecticut Schools Race to the Top

The Obama Administration's Race to the Top program made \$4.3 billion available to states that reform public education. To meet that challenge, we approved a landmark education bill that uses technology to track students' academic growth, creates new teacher accountability standards and provides options to fix failing schools. With these reforms Connecticut will have a better shot at securing Race to the Top funds, closing the achievement gap and ensuring that our graduates can compete in the global economy.



State Representative Ed Jutila and I marvel at East Lyme resident Jillian Wilson's computer skills during the Connecticut Educators Computer Association's annual technology expo at the State Capitol.

Standing Up For Vocational-Technical Schools

Vo-tech graduates contribute mightily to a well-trained, highly qualified, experienced workforce. That's why I worked with my colleagues to help reform the system and ensure that it has adequate resources. For too long the 10,000 students enrolled in vo-tech high schools have endured understaffing, shortages of classroom and shop supplies, inefficient transportation and virtually no budgetary oversight. The new law will bring increased transparency to vo-tech budgeting and heightened sensitivity by the state Board of Education to the needs of these schools.



Cracking Down on Distracted Driving

A new law has the potential to make your commute a lot safer. Police will be cracking down on distracted driving under changes to the state's cell phone law that take effect on October 1. The law, which does not impact drivers who go hands-free, will

send 25 percent of all fees collected for citations on cell phone users and texters back to the municipality that issues the ticket, giving local police a greater incentive to crack down on this dangerous behavior.

GROWING JOBS

Connecticut's Landmark Jobs Bill

There was no greater priority this legislative session than helping Connecticut create high-quality jobs. We worked with Governor Rell to do just that. Provisions of the new law include:

- ▶ Loans for small businesses to help fund expansions and additional hires
- ▶ Sales tax exemptions for machinery and fuel used in renewable energy industries
- ▶ Loan reimbursements and grants for education and careers in green technology and health information technology
- ▶ Tax credits for 'angel investments' in bioscience, photonics, information technology and green businesses



HEALTH CARE

Ensuring Cancer Patients Get the Care They Need



Cancer patients can now take oral doses of chemotherapy to help them fight the disease, but these new medicines can be very expensive, and some insurance companies have been unwilling to fully cover the costs. Most insurance policies fully cover intravenous chemotherapy, and

this new law requires parity for the two strategies. Cancer patients can now rest assured of comparable insurance coverage for each chemotherapy protocol.

At the end of May I was recognized as a 2010 "Children's Champion" by the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance for my work on legislation aimed at protecting our youngest citizens.



JOB RESOURCES

- ▶ **CT Job and Career ConneCTion**
Online resource for individuals seeking employment by providing self-assessment tools to find the right occupation, general information about various careers and various links to search for jobs and employers. 860-439-7400 or www.ctjobandcareer.org

ENERGY ASSISTANCE & CONSERVATION

- ▶ **Save on Your Electric Bill**
Choose Your Electric Supplier—The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered by ten percent. 1-888-922-3782 or www.ctenergyinfo.com
- ▶ **State Sales Tax Exemptions**
Connecticut provides sales tax exemptions for energy-efficient products including: insulation, caulking, doors, fluorescent light bulbs, furnaces, geothermal heat pumps, programmable thermostats, water heaters and windows.



SUMMER SAVINGS

- ▶ **We rolled back outdoor recreation fees to help families save.**
The resident fishing license was reduced from \$40 to \$28 and resident firearms hunting license from \$28 to \$19. Residents who bought licenses earlier in the year at the higher rate can get a credit on next year's fees. Camping and park entrance fees were reduced by more than 32 percent in state forests and parks across Connecticut, including Rocky Neck and Harkness Memorial State Parks. www.senatedems.ct.gov/Parks



FOR SENIORS

- ▶ **Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)**
By joining MSP, eligible seniors could save \$1,000 per year or more in Medicare Part B premiums, and the Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy would lower prescription co-payments. Most individuals in ConnPACE are eligible for Medicare and can enroll in MSP.

As a ConnPACE member, your pharmacy co-payment is now \$16.25. Your pharmacy co-pay could be reduced to as low as \$2.50 for generics and \$6.30 for brand-name drugs on Medicare Part D's Drug list.

For more information, call CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422, speak to a representative at 211, or visit www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms.

